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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**APPLICANT:** Ganesh N. Ramaswamy et al.      **DOCKET NO.** YO999-331 (8728-310)  
**SERIAL NO.:** 09/390,308      **GROUP:** Art Unit 2654  
**FILED:** September 3, 1999      **EXAMINER:** Edouard, Patrick Nestor  
**FOR:** METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ENSURING ROBUSTNESS  
IN NATURAL LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDING

**RECEIVED**

MAY 27 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2600

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 21, 2004, applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group I (claim nos. 1-15, 23-50), with traverse. While the method, device and system of Group I and the method of Group II may be distinct for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, applicant believes that simultaneous examination will not present an undue burden.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 21, 2004.


Dated: 5/21/04

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Chau

For example, the claims of Group I are drawn to a method, device and system for natural language understanding and the claims of Group II are drawn to a method for natural language understanding. The two Groups of claims include subject matters that are classified commonly in class 704. Under such circumstances, the Examiner is encouraged to maintain all claims in the same application. See, MPEP § 803.

Early and favorable consideration of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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